

I strongly believe that our immigration system is broken and that only a comprehensive approach to reform will provide us with a long-term solution. I support legislation that promotes family reunification; asylum and refugee admissions; fully funded education opportunities from Pre-K through college (like Head Start and the DREAM Act); and employment-based immigration (like Ag-JOBS).

We must strike a balance between American jobs, border safety and national security interests. We must make sure that our borders are secure. However, long-term residents -- many of whom work hard in our fields, pay their fair share of taxes and have U.S. citizen children -- have earned the right to start down the path toward a regularization of status. I also support programs like the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs and the Merida Project, designed to help immigrants and their families improve their lives.

Bills I have authored during the 111th Congress (2009-2010):

- [H.R. 2363](#) - Proud to be an American Citizen Act - Provides federal funding to community based organizations to hold citizenship ceremonies publically.

Bills I have cosponsored during the 111th Congress:

- [H.R. 2414](#) - The AgJOBS Act of 2009 - Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to give "blue card status" to any person who has worked 863 hours in the last two years or who has earned \$7,500 during the 24-month period ending on December 31, 2006; who is otherwise admissible to the United States; and who has not been convicted of any felony or a misdemeanor.

- [H.R. 2076](#) - Border Security and Responsibility Act 2009 - requires Department of Homeland Security, Interior, Agriculture, Defense and Commerce Secretaries to come up with a border plan that takes into account environmental impact assessments, to look at other ways to protect the border, and to work with local people to find solutions.

- [H.R. 1751](#) - American Dream Act - Adjusts to conditional permanent resident status, a non-citizen who entered the United States before his/her 16th birthday and has earned a high school diploma or been admitted to college.

- [H.R. 1314](#) - SCAAP Reimbursement Protection Act of 2010 - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow states to be compensated for incarcerating undocumented aliens who are charged with, or convicted of, a felony or two or more misdemeanors.

- [H.R. 1215](#) - Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act - Requires special training of all Department of Homeland Security personnel who come into contact with unaccompanied alien children.
- [H.R. 1024](#) - Uniting American Families Act of 2009 - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to include a "permanent partner" within the scope of such Act.
- [H.R. 144](#) - Haitian Protection Act of 2009 - Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haitian nationals as eligible for temporary protected status.

Other actions I have taken during the 111th Congress:

- I signed a letter to House Budget Committee Chairman Spratt requesting full funding in fiscal year 2010 to support Head Start, a program that assists low-income children prepare for their education.
- I requested appropriations of \$1.5 million for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program. Silver Star uses a multi-agency collaborative model of prevention and early intervention services to avert and reduce gang association, membership and activities among youth 6-21 in Monterey County. This program employs an innovative and effective "umbrella" organization structure, combining probation supervision, educational, vocational and job training, counseling services and truancy abatement, and also adds mentoring, community mobilization and outreach, and family support services to gang-involved or at-risk youth. Since 2005 I have secured \$3 million for Silver Star.
- I requested appropriations of \$1.2 million for the Street Violence and Anti-Gang Project, known as the Gang Task Force. The Gang Task Force is the result of a countywide collaborative whose mission is to reduce gang violence throughout Monterey County. The task force has made a significant positive impact on gang related crime and has become a statewide model of effective gang suppression coupled with the prevention and intervention efforts of the Monterey County Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention program. Since 2005 I have secured \$3.4 million for the Gang Task Force.
- In April I traveled to Trinidad and Tobago with President Obama to attend the Summit of the Americas. On the way there, we stopped in Mexico City on April 17 to discuss a wide range of immigration issues.
- On April 29 I was presented an award by the Sierra Club for my opposition to the border fence. In remarks to the group during its Border Lobby Week I paraphrased President Reagan: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."
- I secured funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Natividad Medical Center Diabetes Self-Management Program. Natividad Medical Center uses the funds to implement a comprehensive Latino Diabetes Care Management Initiative. The program is designed to reduce complications resulting from poor disease management as well as the costs associated with those complications.
- My district staffers routinely assist constituents with a range of different immigration related issues.

- I signed a letter to provide funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP would allow California to receive federal money for incarcerating undocumented aliens who are charged with, or convicted of, a felony or two or more misdemeanors.
- I supported issuing California drivers' licenses to undocumented persons as long as they provide proof of insurance.
- I met with Mexican government officials and facilitated letters to Mexican government regarding the bracero stipend.
- I used my position as a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee to call attention to misplaced priorities of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and other Homeland Security divisions. Already this year I have raised the issues of our failed immigration policy and the inability of agencies to police our border with Mexico to stop the trafficking of guns and drugs. Several more hearings will take place this spring on those issues.